

Oxana Banshikova

www.cosmic-dance.com www.oxana.tk info@cosmic-dance.com

Oxana Banshikova is originally from Kazakhstan and has been living in Hong Kong for the last four years. She is the artistic director of Cosmic Dance Company and a performer, choreographer and teacher of Bharata Natyam Indian Classical Dance.

After taking up dance at the age of five, Oxana trained and performed in a variety of dance styles, from ballet through contemporary and jazz, always searching for something special and meaningful in her dance experiences.

She found this in Indian Classical Dance and gained inspiration from its rich historical background and unique dance techniques. With support from her teachers, friends and family, Oxana researched this ancient art form and was awarded a scholarship by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to attend a four-year course at the illustrious Kalakshetra College of Fine Arts in Chennai, India.

The experience of living in South India and studying in a traditional and conservative environment allowed Oxana to build a wide knowledge of Indian culture, traditions, mythology and languages. She also had the opportunity to meet, learn from and collaborate with some of the greatest artists in the field of Bharata Natyam.

In addition to her full time dance course, Oxana also completed a course in Nattuvangam (rhythmical accompaniment for Indian Dance) and furthered her interest and practice in Yoga.

For the past ten years, Oxana has continued to focus on the ancient tradition of Indian Classical Dance and spreads her love for it through fusion with modern popular music and other dance styles.

In the four years she has been living in Hong Kong, she has been sharing her knowledge through teaching and performing. She has taught at both the Lingnan University and Planet Yoga and held numerous workshops for different organizations. Her Indian fusion choreography won 1st prize at the 45th Interschool Dance Competition.

Recent performances by Oxana and her Cosmic Dance group include:

- The Journey of the Lotus (co-produced and choreographed by Oxana), Fringe club, March 2009
- World belly dance day in HK, Jockey Club Auditorium, May 2009
- Dancing 'in' dancing 'out', Dance in the bamboo garden at Yuen Long Theater, HK.
- International Dance Extravaganza, Academy for Performing Arts, April 2010
- Udavam Karangal – an annual charity show for homeless children in India: 2008, 2009 and 2010
- Krishna, Sheung Wan Civic Center, May 2010

- We All Are Cosmic Dancers (produced and choreographed by Oxana), Fringe Theater, May 2010
- Guest appearance at the Rocky Horror Show, Shoushon Theater, October 2010
- Bollywood Christmas/New Year countdown shows at Olympian City Mall, December 2010
- International Dance Extravaganza, Drama Theater, Academy for Performing Arts, January 2011

Teaching experience for the past four years in Hong Kong:

- 2007- 2010: Indian Classical dance instructor at Planet Yoga
- 2008: Introduction to Bharatanatyam workshop at Lingnan University
- 2008-2009: Choreographer and teacher for the HK interschool dance competition at Sacred Heart Canossian School
- 2009/2010: Workshops on "Telling stories through Indian Dance" at Kellet British International School and Beacon Hill School.
- 2007-2011: Teaching classes for kids and adults at Cosmic Dance Company.

Links to Oxana's performances on you tube:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REEf49cpvrk>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REEf49cpvrk>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwlyUD6Hlr0>
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_bSONEeEMw
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U7kKct2YJY>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=od9QWUJHaUI>

